

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 152298

60

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 EB-11 L-03 RSC-01 /037 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:TMTONKIN:SO

8/2/73 EXT 20815

APPROVED BY ARA/APU:WPSTEDMAN

----- 123684

O 022057Z AUG 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 152298

E.O. 11652

TAGS: EFIN, PINT,PFOR, AR

SUBJ: NOON PRESS BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS ON
ARGENTINA FROM NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 2.

Q. CHARLIE, THE "ROUTINE COMMENT," AS PAUL PUT IT,
FOR MAX KREBS, THE DCM, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THERE, AND I
WONDER IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

Q. WHAT'S THE QUESTION?

A. A CHAMBER OF THE ARGENTINE LEGISLATIVE BODY HAS
CALLED FOR THE EXPULSION OF OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. DO I
HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.

WELL, I THINK IF I UNDERSTAND THE GROUNDS ON
WHICH THE VOTE WAS BASED, I THINK I SHOULD SAY FIRST,
AND CERTAINLY MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT IT IS NOT THE POLICY
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA; AND
SPECIFICALLY, IN THIS CASE, ARGENTINA.

WE HAVE ATTEMPTED, OVER THE YEARS, AND CERTAINLY
UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION, TO CONDUCT OUR RELATIONS WITH
ARGENTINA IN A MANNER WHICH FULLY RESPECTS ARGENTINA'S
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 152298

SOVEREIGNTY.

UNCLASSIFIED

NOW AS SOME OF YOU WILL KNOW, THE ANTECEDENTS TO THIS LIE IN A CONVERSATION OR SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WHICH OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HAD IN EARLY JULY ON THE SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC LEGISLATION PENDING BEFORE THE ARGENTINE LEGISLATIVE BODY, FOLLOWING WHICH, THERE WAS A SPECIFIC REQUEST BY AN ARGENTINE OFFICIAL FOR A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE POINTS BEING MADE BY THE AMERICAN SIDE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT KIND OF SUMMARY?

A. WRITTEN

AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY SUPPLIED A MEMORANDUM TO THAT EFFECT.

IT MAY BE THAT AT LEAST PART OF THE PROBLEM LIES IN A HASTY TRANSLATION WHICH LED ARGENTINE OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER THAT SOME OF THE LANGUAGE WAS OFFENSIVE. IN ANY EVENT, WE VERY MUCH REGRET THE MATTER, BUT I MIGHT POINT OUT SOMETHING THAT MANY OF YOU WILL KNOW, AND THAT IS THAT IT IS A WIDELY ACCEPTED DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE TO HAVE THESE KINDS OF CONSULTATIONS, OR CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH ONE IS ACCREDITED -- AND I KNOW IT IS COMMON PRACTICE IN WASHINGTON FOR A FOREIGN EMBASSY TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

Q. COULD I ASK ANOTHER QUESTION?

ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR RELIEVING MR. KREBS, THEN FROM ARGENTINA, OR TO --

Q. SPEAK UP.

Q. WILL HE BE WITHDRAWN?

A. NO, NONE THAT I CAN CURRENTLY DESCRIBE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 152298

I MIGHT SAY IN THAT CONTEXT ---

Q. WHAT WAS THAT?

A. "ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO BRING MR. KREBS HOME."

I MIGHT SAY IN THAT CONTEXT.

Q. EXCUSE ME -- YOUR ANSWER WAS WHAT?

A. "NO, NONE THAT I CAN CURRENTLY DESCRIBE." I MIGHT SAY IN RELATION TO THAT, THAT WE DO VERY MUCH REGRET THIS MATTER AND I KNOW THAT THE EMBASSY IS TAKING STEPS TO ASSURE THAT IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

Q. CHARLES, COULD I ASK YOU --

Q. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, "IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN?" THAT HE WON'T GIVE ADVICE?

YOU SAID STEPS WERE TAKEN SO THAT THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

A. THAT THIS KIND OF SERIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED LAST EVENING TO THE VOTE IN THE ARGENTINE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, WILL NOT RECUR.

Q. BUT YOU CONTRADICT YOURSELF, CHARLES, DON'T YOU?

A. WHY?

Q. WELL, YOU SAY THAT THIS IS A COMMON PRACTICE HERE AND EVERYWHERE ELSE. AND NOW YOU SAY THAT IT WON'T BE PRACTICED IN BUENOS AIRES.

A. NO. I DIDN'T, I WAS A LITTLE MORE INDEFINITE THAN THAT, ENDRE.

LET ME SAY SOMETHING ON BACKGROUND:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 152298

THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT IS ONE THING TO CONSULT WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND ANOTHER TO LEAVE QUASI OFFICIAL PIECES OF PAPER -- DESPITE -- AND I WANT TO NOTE THIS AGAIN: DESPITE THE REQUEST FOR A WRITTEN SUMMARY.

NOW THAT'S AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS, THERE WAS A REQUEST FOR A WRITTEN SUMMARY.

Q. CHARLES, CAN I GO BACK TO THE ECONOMICS?

Q. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HASTY TRANSLATION?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US AN EXAMPLE OF THIS TRANSLATION WHICH RESULTED IN POSSIBLE --

A. THE EMBASSY, PRESUMABLY, SPENCER, BUT BEYOND THAT I COULDN'T TELL YOU.
SIR?

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US AN EXAMPLE OF THIS TRANSLATION WHICH EVIDENTLY RESULTED IN SOME --

A. I CAN'T.

Q. CHARLES, COMING BACK TO ARGENTINA, I'M NOT QUITE CLEAR TO WHAT YOU ARE REGRETTING. ARE YOU REGRETTING THE ENTIRE INCIDENT, THE EPISODE?

ARE YOU REGRETTING THAT THIS TRANSLATION HAS LED TO THE PROBLEMS?

A. I AM EXPRESSING REGRET, AND I DID IT FIRST WITH RESPECT TO LANGUAGE WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED OFFENSIVE BY ARGENTINE OFFICIALS.

AND SECOND, IN A MORE GENERAL CONTEXT -- AS I RECALL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 152298

Q. CAN WE GET A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT -- IN EITHER LANGUAGE?

A. YOU'RE WELCOME TO EXAMINE MY COPY, BUT SINCE YOU ARE NOT A BONA FIDE REFUGEE --

Q. I'M TALKING ABOUT ARGENTINA -- THE KREBS DOCUMENT.

A. OH.

Q. IN EITHER LANGUAGE. WHAT I'M AFTER IS WHAT SPECIFICALLY --

A. YES, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, BUT I'LL FIND IT OUT. ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE152298
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMTONKIN:SO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730861/aaaabsyp.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOON PRESS BRIEFING
TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PFOR, AR
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005